

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5, 6 and 8-12 are presented for consideration, with claims 1 and 10-12 being independent.

The independent claims have been amended to further distinguish Applicant's invention from the cited art. Claims 7, 13 and 14 have been canceled.

The amendments to the claims were not presented earlier as it was believed that the previously presented claims would be found allowable. This Amendment cancels claims without adding any additional claims. Moreover, the Examiner's familiarity with the subject matter of the present application will allow an appreciation of the significance of the amendments herein without undue expenditure of time and effort. Finally, the Amendment does not raise new issues requiring a substantial amount of further consideration or search. Accordingly, it is submitted that entry of the Amendment is appropriate.

Initially, Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended to his representative during the telephone conversation of April 10, 2007. During that telephone conversation, the Examiner informed Applicant's undersigned representative that the priority document has been located in the official file. The priority document was filed on July 6, 2004.

Claims 1, 3 and 5-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being obvious over Ishikawa et al. '516 in view of Kim '103. In addition claims 13 and 14 stand rejected

as allegedly being obvious over Ishikawa et al., '516. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant's invention as set forth in Claim 1 relates to a printing apparatus provided with a plurality of interface means connectable to external devices adapted to store image data and operated by power supplied from the printing apparatus, with at least one of the plurality of interface means including a memory card interface and at least one of the external devices including a memory card. The printing apparatus includes detection means for detecting a connection state of the external devices to the plurality of interface means, determining means for determining whether or not a total amount of power that the external device is demanding exceeds an amount of power that the printing apparatus is capable of supplying when the detection means detects that the memory card is in the connection state, and selection means for selecting one of the external devices to be supplied with power according to an operating state of a previously connected external device among the external devices when it is determined that the total amount of power required exceeds the amount of power that the printing apparatus is capable of supplying. After the previously connected external device enters an idle state, the selection means sets a flag, stops power supply to the previously connected external device and starts power supply to the memory card. As amended, after having accessed the memory card through the memory card interface, the selection means restarts power supply to the previously-connected external device based on a value set in the flag.

Support for the amendments to claim 1 can be found, for example, in FIGS. 8 and 10, and the corresponding specification. In accordance with Applicant's claimed invention, a high performance printing apparatus can be provided.

The primary citation to Ishikawa et al. relates to a power control system in which power is distributed to peripheral devices. A power controller can acquire properties of a plurality of connected devices, decide the optimum power distribution and control the power controllers of each of the devices. As understood, Ishikawa et al. provides that an operation mode of a printer is changed to reduce power consumption when an external device is newly connected. The Office Action takes the position that, for a high priority newly connected device, a controller is likely to stop a low priority previously connected device when it enters an idle state.

The secondary citation to Kim relates to controlling a power supply of USB devices coupled to a host and is relied upon for stopping a supply of power to an idle device and starting the power supply to an active device.

Without conceding the propriety of combining Ishikawa et al. and Kim in the manner proposed in the Office Action, it is submitted that such a combination still fails to teach or suggest Applicant's claimed invention. For example, in the printing apparatus of Applicant's Claim 1, the selection means sets a flag, stops power supply to the previously-connected external device and starts power supply to the memory card, and after having

accessed the memory card, the power supply is restarted to the previously-connected external device based on a value set in the flag.

Independent claims 10-12 have been amended along the same lines as independent claim 1 to include, among other features, setting a flag when a previously-connected external device enters an idle state, and after accessing a memory card, restarting power supply to a previously-connected external device based on a value set in the flag.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 3 and 5-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is respectfully requested. The rejection of claims 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is deemed to be moot in view of the cancellation of these claims.

Accordingly, it is submitted that Applicant's invention as set forth in independent claims 1 and 10-12 is patentable over the cited art. In addition, dependent claims 3, 5, 8 and 9 set forth additional features of Applicant's invention, independent consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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